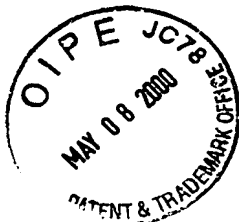


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(11)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
Ryuichi ISHIKAWA, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 3729  
SERIAL NO: 09/160,581 :  
FILED: SEPTEMBER 25, 1998 : EXAMINER: RUSHING JR., B  
FOR: CUTTING DEVICE AND CUTTING  
METHOD FOR OPTICAL FIBER

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 1999, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 6, line 22, change "Eq. 1" to --Exp. (1) as described above--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 3-4, and add new Claims 5-10 as follows:

5. A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising the step of moving a cutting blade having a blade thickness  $\alpha$  (mm) at a speed  $\beta$  (mm/minute) during the cutting, wherein  $\beta \leq -253\alpha + 65$  (mm/minute).
6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of heating said cutting blade.